

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-13 NEA-10 RSR-01 /136 W

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R 201758Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3457

INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

UNCLAS LONDON 09581

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, RH, MZ

SUBJECT: LONDON NEWSPAPER REPORTS RHODESIAN OPERATIONS  
IN MOZAMBIQUE

1. LONDON EVENING STANDARD AUGUST 20 PUBLISHED  
EXCLUSIVE REPORT BY REPORTER MAX HASTINGS, WHO HAD JUST  
RETURNED FROM THREE WEEKS AMONG THE FARMING COMMUNITY  
OF NORTHEAST RHODESIA, IN WHICH HE SAID HE HAD INFOR-  
MATION THAT THE RHODESIAN ARMY IS OPERATING IN STRENGTH  
IN MOZAMBIQUE. HASTINGS' ARTICLE SAYS THAT 400 MEN OF  
THE RHODESIAN LIGHT INFANTRY HAVE JOINED THE SPECIAL  
AIR SERVICES IN CONDUCTING SWEEPS INTO MOZAMBIQUE TO  
SEARCH OUT TERRORIST BASES. THESE SWEEPS  
LAST FOR TWO TO THREE WEEKS WITH UNITS BEING LIFTED BY  
HELICOPTER INTO THE OPERATING AREAS.

2. HASTINGS' INFORMATION COMES FROM INTERVIEWS WITH  
RHODESIAN FARMERS IN THE NORTHEAST AREA OF THE COUNTRY  
WHERE TERRORISTS HAVE BEEN OPERATING SINCE LAST DECEMBER.  
SOME OF HIS SOURCES ARE MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL SECURITY  
FORCES. ONE NCO SAID THAT THE REASON FOR RHODESIAN  
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INCURSIONS INTO MOZAMBIQUE WAS THAT THEY WERE PESSIMISTIC

ABOUT PORTUGUESE ABILITY TO "HOLD THEIR GROUND IN MOZAMBIQUE." THE PROSPECT OF A PORTUGUESE COLLAPSE WAS IN HASTINGS' WORDS "A STRATEGIC NIGHTMARE" FOR THE RHODESIANS BECAUSE IT WOULD EXPOSE THEIR ENTIRE EASTERN BORDER TO THE TERRORISTS. HE SPECULATED THAT PERHAPS RHODESIAN OPERATIONS INSIDE MOZAMBIQUE HAD BEEN INITIATED AS MUCH TO STIFFEN PORTUGUESE WILL AS TO DEAL WITH THE TERRORIST SANCTUARIES.

3. IN DISCUSSING THE EFFECT OF THE TERRORISTS' CAMPAIGN ON RHODESIA, HASTINGS SAYS THAT THE EFFORT TO MOBILIZE THE COUNTRY HAS BEEN ON A SCALE THAT WILL BE DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE TO MAINTAIN INDEFINITELY. HE THEN GOES ON TO DESCRIBE IN DETAIL SOME OF THE SECURITY MEASURES WHICH HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY WHITE RHODESIAN FARMERS, INCLUDING SUCH PHYSICAL BARRIERS AS 10-FT. FENCES SURROUNDING FARM HOUSES WHICH ARE BATHED BY SEARCH LIGHTS AT NIGHT. EVENTS OF THE PAST FEW MONTHS, SUCH AS ATTACKS ON FARMS, MINING OF ROADS AND ISOLATED MURDERS HAVE BROUGHT HOME TO THE FARMING COMMUNITY ITS VULNERABILITY EVEN TO LIMITED TERRORISM, HASTINGS WRITES. HIS SOURCES TOLD HIM THAT "COUNTRY PEOPLE" NOW BELIEVE THAT TERRORISM CANNOT BE CRUSHED ALTOGETHER. RATHER THEY TALK OF AIMING TO CONFINE IT TO AN "ACCEPTABLE LEVEL OF VIOLENCE."

4. FULL TEXT BEING POUCHED DEPARTMENT AND LOURENCO MARQUES.

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